

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, we are on the bill as amended.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, so that the discussion can proceed, I will move that LB 708 be advanced to E & R Initial. My comments, oh, that is right, I am making a motion so I get 10 minutes. There are some things that need to be in the record on this because although members of the Legislature don't recognize the significance of it, whenever this Legislature does something, it is picked up in other parts of the country. The Legislature is watched. I have been called about front page articles on things this Legislature has done, even on LB 397 when there was maybe a two-inch column in some of the papers here, and I think that might be because there is a difficulty on the part of editors acknowledging that something so significant can be done by somebody for whom they have so much contempt. But, nevertheless, this area of big-time college athletics is causing considerable attention to be paid to it around the country. Recently the NCAA signed a multiyear billion dollar contract with the networks for covering basketball and a debate arose as to whether or not that money should be divided among the various conferences, the schools, or just how, but not one word about anything out of that billion-plus dollars for the players who make it all possible. In football, there are multimillion dollar contracts that have been made between the college system and the networks, but not one word about what goes to the players. So what I would want Senator McFarland to discuss, when he speaks again, is how this bill relative to the Pell Grant aspect would impact on these nonscholarship athletes. If he is coming this way, I will ask him but I didn't want to ask him while he was up at the front. Senator McFarland pointed out that based on the letter, a copy of which you have been given, nonscholarship athletes who have been recruited would be affected by this bill because if they receive aid then they would have to be counted against the total number of scholarships allowed for the school. Since the school has met its quota of scholarship aid to be granted, they cannot give that player any aid without violating NCAA rules. They cannot allow that player to receive federal financial aid without violating NCAA rules, but rather than speak about general federal financial aid, I want to ask this specific question. On this category of nonrecruited player who wants to participate at the varsity level, would he be allowed, and we can say he, in